MHC No. 20-165

HOSPITALS CO

213

McInnes, J S (Military Hospitals Commission, Ottawa)

Sept 1917

(85)

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MILITARY HOSPITALS COMMISSION
CANADA

UNOFFICIAL.

OTTAWA, September Fifteenth,
Nineteen Seventeen.

Dear Sir Robert,-

The question of re-education of disabled students who have enlisted before completing their academic or professional courses, and are being returned to civil life, has been engaging the attention of the Commission.

Under authority which has been given to us the case is quite clear as to our powers to provide for re-education where disability prevents the resuming of their former occupations, but studentship is in its nature essentially transitory and very few disabilities would prevent a man engaging in some branch of the profession he had previously selected. There are, however, a considerable number of cases whom we would like to assist recognizing the advantage to the country of educated men.

With a view of assisting the Commission to a proper solution of this problem, would you be good enough to inform me what Toronto University is doing to assist men who are going overseas:-

(a) In the way of remission of fees
(b) Shortening courses of study
(c) Special facilities for passing examinations.

And again

(a) What similar privileges might be extended to returned men of the student class.
(b) Are there any exhibitions or scholarships which might be made available for selected men of this class.

McLennan, J S (Military Hospitals Commission, Ottawa)

Sept 1917

I would greatly appreciate your suggestions on this subject, either on the points above briefly indicated, or any other aspect of the case.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,

F. S. McLennan

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

September 18th, 1917

Hon. J. S. McLennan,

Military Hospitals Commission, Ottawa.

Dear Mr. McLennan:

I am very much interested in the question that you have brought forward in your letter, as already the matter has been raised. The question of the re-education of disabled students who enlisted before completing their academic and professional trainin is a most important one. You will realise that in the matter of enlistment the Universities have a splendid record in the Dominion. The result will be, however, that ten years from now we shall suffer sadly in our professions. I think therefore that we should do everything in our power to help those who return from the front to complete their courses.

You will recognise also that the Universities have suffered very seriously by the reduction of their finances owing to the urgency of the call that they made to their students for enlistment in the war. Those Universities which are on private foundation like McGill, Dalhousie, Queen's and others may have suffered more than our provincial universities which can rely on the Governments for deficits. I think it would be extremely hard to ask of Universities which already are struggling under heavy deficits occasioned by the war to assume the further burden of remitting fees to those students who return disabled from the front. In my judgment this is a duty that the country at large owes to the student just as much as it

does to grant a pension to a disabled soldier. I think, therefore, that either the Dominion Hospital Commission or some pension board under the direction of the military authorities should see that returned students who come within certain conditions and who apply within a certain period should have their fees paid by the Dominion Government. This being my general position I send you the information that you ask for.

1. (a) We have made no remission of fees to students who have enlisted.

(b) In the Faculty of Arts we have granted a year's standing so that with an attendance of three years a student who has been well reported on may receive his B.A. degree.

In the professional faculties there has been but little shortening of the term. In Medicine, for example, we require an attendance of at least 2/3 of the session and a favourable report from the teachers. The same practically applies in Applied Science.

(c) In many cases a student was granted his year or his degree without formal examination, the report of the professor or his laboratory work being accepted as sufficient.

2. (a) With regard to those who will return to complete their professional courses my opinion is that the University will need to be as generous as possible, and that we cannot lay down any definite rule that will apply to all. It is altogether likely that we shall have to deal with individual cases, and I anticipate that we shall have a good deal of trouble for several years to come in making necessary

adjustments. As a university man yourself you will recognise that it may be extremely difficult for a man who has been absent for several years to take up the work say of the third year even though he has passed the second year. The principle, however, that we must lay down is that in the professional faculties a man should not be sent out to practise his profession without the university being reasonably satisfied that he is competent for his work.

(t) We have no exhibitions or scholarships in the University of Toronto that could be made available for men of this class. Our exhibitions and scholarships have all been settled by statute through the gift of the honor, and are given mainly at Matriculation.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.